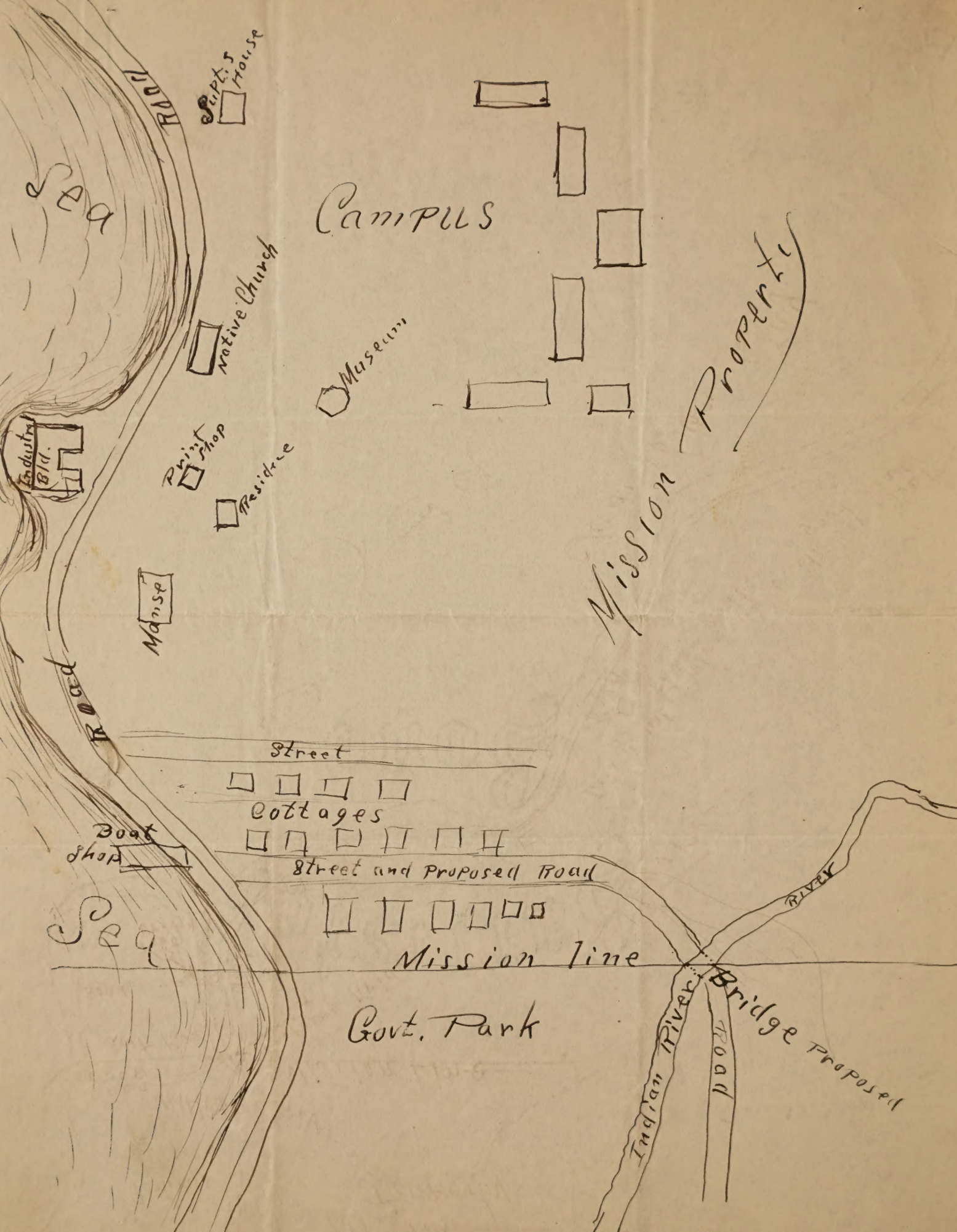
Mission
Property
Campus
Mosq/Village
River
Mission Line
Govt Park
Proposed Bridge
Road
Road
Foot Bridge
Forest
This road is already built for about three miles. a good road
Road
Island
Sea
Jamestown
Bay
Island


Supt.'s House
Sea
Road
Campus
Native Church
Museum
Mission Property
Industrial Bld.
Print Shop
Residence
Madrise
Road
Street
Cottages
Boat Shop
Street and Proposed Road
Sea
Mission line
Govt. Park
River
Indian River
Bridge Proposed
Road

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1918
TREASURER'S OFFICE

May 15, 1918

Mr. Varian Banks,

File

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Under date March 30, ultimo, I wrote you that I would later on report relative to the government road through the Sitka property.

I have recently had conferences with Captain Waugh, of the Alaska Road Commission, and with Judge Gunnison, the Board's legal adviser in Alaska.

It is the opinion of each of these that it is not essential that any mention be made in title of transfer to the Woman's Board of the Government Road now constructed through the grounds.

There is no objection to such road on the part of any one, it is of benefit to the property, it cuts off but a small fraction of the property.

It is admitted that the road has been constructed without permission from the owner and that technically the Road Commission had no authority so to do. Should there ever be a disposition to contest the action the Woman's Board can do so at their pleasure. Also, should the Woman's Board so desire, it can dedicate such portion of the property as is occupied by the road to public use. The presence of the road in no way affects the present title.

It is probable that Captain Waugh would have ordered a survey made had he expected to have one of his Government surveyors at Sitka this summer, but this is not the case.

mailing under separate cover

I am ~~enclosing~~ a sketch of the portion of the property affected, made by Mr. Ludy, of the Sitka school. It will be observed that the "Beach Road" which has long been considered a public highway and "Metlakatla Street" of the "Model Village". also long used as a public highway, lead to within a short distance of the boundary line before the turn designated "New Road" appears. Only a comparatively insignificant portion of mission ground not previously occupied for public road purposes is affected by the "New Road"

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit.

In re Sitka, Alaska, Proposed Road.

February 28, 1918.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Dr. Dixon has placed in my hands your letter addressed to him under date of December second last in which you enclosed a pen sketch of the Sitka property and the approximate location of the street and proposed road.

No one connected with this Board has had any communication or indulged in any telegraphic correspondence with any one aside from yourself in regard to this road matter. I, therefore, felt well satisfied that the telegraphic permission to proceed, which you refer to in your letter, emanated from the Woman's Board of Home Missions and upon calling on Mr. Marshall C. Allaben, superintendent of school work for that Board, I find that he sent the telegraphic despatch giving such permission in view of his full knowledge of the situation and the fact that the Woman's Board were the real owners of the property, although at the present time the title is vested in our Board. The transfer will be made to the Woman's Board in due course of time, just as soon as we can determine the status of the manse building erected on the Sitka land.

The requirement his upon us, however, to obtain a blue print, if it is possible to secure it, covering the exact portion of the land that is preempted by the road commissioners for this new street and road showing its metes and bounds, in order that we may transfer, when the proper time arrives, the remainder of the property and thus avoid including in such transfer the amount of land preempted by the road commissioners.

Will you arrange to secure an official description of the land, when once it has been surveyed, and send same to me for our record and use in any future transaction covering the Sitka property?

Sincerely yours,

B-CM

Assistant Treasurer.

C O P Y

November 26th, 1918.

In re Sitka Alaska

Mr. W. J. McMillan,
Acting Treasurer,
Woman's Board of Home Missions.

Dear Mr. McMillan:

A few days ago I discovered, as I well knew, that the deed conveying the Sitka property to the Woman's Board, while duly executed and ready for delivery, had never been placed in your hands. I presume the omission was caused be a desire to have the status of the Sitka manse building clearly defined. However, whether the title to the Sitka property is vested in this Board or in the Woman's Board, there will of course, be no difficulty whatever in arranging for any adjustment should any occasion arise. I am, therefore, enclosing the following documents:

Deed of this Board dated March 16th, 1916, transferring to the Woman's Board all the property in Sitka
Patent, dated February 8th, 1912, from the U.S. Government to the Board of Home Missions, No. 247102
Deed dated March 16th, 1916, transferring from this Board to the Woman's Board certain property in Sitka
Deed dated June 4th, 1914, transferring from Nicholas Haley and Charles Haley to the Board of Home Missions, certain property in Sitka
Plan of the buildings of the Sitka Industrial Training School at Sitka
Quit Claim Deed from John G. Brady to the Board of Home Missions dated October 9th, 1882.
Bill of Sale from W. G. Beattie to Board of Home Missions dated July 25th, 1910
Missionary Claim of the Board of Home Missions, dated Sitka, Alaska, October 9th, 1882.

Will you kindly acknowledge these enclosures.

Very truly yours,

Asst. Treasurer

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

FEB 14 1918

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 2nd, 1918

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

Some time in November, Mr. Banks wrote me regarding a proposed road across our Sitka property, which the Road Commission desired to construct, and asked that I investigate the same.

Under date November 28th, 1917, I reported that I had placed the matter in Judge Gunnison's hands for investigation.

The Judge took the matter up with the Road Commission by verbal interview with the representative of the same here in Juneau. As I understand it he received a promise that farther information would be forthcoming but to date nothing has come to pass.

I have therefore undertaken to get what information I could from the missionary in charge at Sitka, Rev. Robert Buchanan. I have also had a talk with Mr. Ludy, present acting superintendent of the Sheldon Jackson School.

I herewith enclose a sketch of the mission ground affected by the proposed road, drawn by Mr. Buchanan. I have not been able to obtain a blue print of the survey of the mission tract, which would more exactly show the premises.

I also enclose a statement by Mr. Buchanan relative to the matter.

It appears that the Road Commission has proceeded to the construction of the road, in part, and that the approaches to the "bridge" are already in.

Mr. Ludy, and also Mr. Buchanan, indicate that the Government claims the right to thus proceed without permission, on the ground that the road is a military road. I have called Judge Gunnison's attention to this and he states that such a claim can not be substantiated.

I have also been informed that the Road Commission received, from some source, (unknown to me) telegraphic permission to proceed. Perhaps you can determine whether such permission was granted from New York, and if so by whom and on what ground.

To my mind the construction of such a road is desirable from the view point of the Board's interest. It affects but a small portion of the mission tract does not detract from the value of the mission tract but rather adds to it as furnishing a means of crossing "Indian River" and making accessible timber for fuel purposes. It also improves a street running through our "Model Village"

Judge Gunnison, Mr. Ludy and I agree that it is a good thing.

It would seem to me that the Road Commission should accomplish the survey setting forth the portion of the tract desired for this purpose and that so much ground as is needed should then be "dedicated" to road purposes.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

(Sketch and Buchanan statement attached)

November 26th, 1918.

In re Sitka, Alaska.

Mr. W. J. McMillan,
Acting Treasurer,
Woman's Board of Home Missions.

Dear Mr. McMillan:-

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Will you kindly acknowledge these enclosures?

Yours very truly,

Asst. Treasurer.

From Church of Sitka, Alaska No. 10450

Pby. of Alaska Synod of Washington

We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation receipt of $ 11.60
Prem. of Insce. on $2000. from Mar.
1,1919 to Mar.1,1922 on Manse

THE BOARD OF CHURCH ERECTION

156 Fifth Avenue, New York

Geo. R. Brauer Treasurer

1919- Dec. 18th EK Cr.
M.Fd.
Prem.Insce.

Bd.of Home Missions,
Building.

Original

The Board's fiscal year ends and books close by order of General Assembly on March 31st. Make checks, drafts, money orders, etc., payable to the BOARD OF CHURCH ERECTION, or, G. R. Brauer, Treasurer

November 13, 1919.

Rev. R.A. Buchanan

Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Buchanan:-

Enclosed you will find check to your order for $70.00 as per requisition endorsed by Dr. Condit for storm windows and wood shed for the manse at Sitka, as per grant made by the Board.

Yours sincerely,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

Enclosure.

May 10, 1920.

Miss Mary W. Torrence, Treasurer,

Woman's Board of Home Missions, Building.

Dear Miss Torrence:-

In re Sitka, Alaska.

Enclosed you will find a contract made by this Board with the Sitka Water and Light Company, which I am passing over to you for your files, now that the title to the Sitka land is vested in the Woman's Board.

Yours sincerely,

ENC. Assistant Treasurer.

VB/EK.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

(2)

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 2,1920

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue,

New York City.

Dear Mr. Banks:

While recently in Sitka the importance of a definite understanding between the Woman's Board and the Men's Board with respect to the tract segregated for the manse use of the missionary in charge of our work became apparent. Recently the Superintendent of the Sheldon Jackson assumed certain authority on the premises which our missionary considers as part of the manse tract which led to some conflict.

I am enclosing a blue print of the portion of the mission ground which our missionary claims and desires as manse reserve. I take it for granted that if the formal transfer has been made this portion has been reserved and that it is delineated in the survey upon which the transfer is based. If the formal transfer has not been made to the Woman's Board this matter should be attended to so that the representatives on the Sitka field may clearly understand their respective metes and bounds. It should be shown, too, that the manse tract extends to the beach line commonly recognized in conveyance of tide lands, or rather of lands affected by tides. In this blue print enclosed a straight line in indicated on the sea side whereas it should be described as a meandering line conforming to the beach.

Will you kindly inform me whether transfer has been made of this property to the Woman's Board and if so what the status is of the manse reserve.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Sitka Survey
Copied to Woman's Board
Nov 16 1916

C O P Y

December 2,1920.

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

James H.Condit.

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HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 9,1920

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Mr. Banks:

While recently in Sitka my attention was called to the status of the "Cottage Settlement" which is that portion of the mission tract which has been sudivided into lots and streets and set aside for the occupancy of such natives as are willing to sign a duly prepared contract looking to their moral improvement.

Natives are now occupying this tract under two forms of lease, I believe, copies of which are, I presume, in your office. One lease is for life term. And, while I have not seen a copy of such , I am led to believe that there is another form which is at will of parties to contract as to termination and not involving the life occupancy feature. The life term contract ,now in vogue apparently, is one drawn up by the late Judge Gunnison, formerly the Board's attorney in Alaska , and supercedes the old original form which was prepared by Dr. Sheldon Jackson and Superintendent William Kelly.

If the transfer of the mission property to the Woman's Board has taken place then it is their obligation to assume the terms of the contracts and see that the provisions are carried out. I learn from the present Superintendent that he has not understood that this is a part of his duty. I am led to ask whether the Men's Board has in recent years collected the stipulated rentals. If so I do not know of such collections.

If the transfer has not been made I wish to raise the question as to the desirability of segregating this settlement and retaining ownership in the Men's Board to the end that an obligation assumed by the Men's Board be carried out by the original parties to the contract. I am not lawyer enough to say whether such an agreement can be assigned to others by transfer of title. I would be glad to know what opinion is held by competent counsel as to this.

The condition as to this "Settlement" is complicated. Recently the town of Sitka has included the tract in its limits and while exempting the ground from taxation is collecting taxes on the buildings occupied by the natives. This is done because the natives are qualifying as citizens and claiming the right of suffrage. One of them, an elder in our Sitka church, has been elected and is now serving as a member of the town council. He and other natives of like forward mind want to pay taxes and have recognition as fully fledged citizens.

Under the terms of the contract as originally prepared it was agreed that the proceeds of rentals should be used in street improvement, etc. Ordinarily the town would care for such improvements

if the ground were subject to taxation and not exempt under religious use terms. As it is, and as a matter of fact, no improvements are being made on the streets and sidewalks.

There is a certain amount of dissatisfaction on the part of some of the occupants of this ground because they have no title to their property. Some of them have erected good buildings at considerable expense and yet have no title to the same.

While the town, at present, recognizes these natives as in the town limits and permits them to hold office and vote as other citizens, it has been suggested that there might be a change of sentiment by which the town would refuse to include this tract in the town limits because the ground is not taxable and thus the natives would loose their rights of suffrage in municipal affairs, at least, and would also be cut off from town improvements.

In line with the above I have at times thought of the advisability of deeding these lots to the occupants. They are exemplary people, are not living in accordance with old customs or superstitions and in my judgement would not use the ground in any way detrimental to the interests of the school or immediate community. The native people are raising the question of equal rights with white people, are decrying special privilege because they are natives and are beginning to insist upon full citizenship rights. Some of those on the mission ground complain that they are "reservation" Indians.

On the other hand my mind is not yet clear as to how to reconcile such a position here with our policy at other places, as Hoonah and Haines, where we have or are instituting the leasing system. I am prepared to admit that the Sitka "Settlement " people are in advance of the other communities and farther to say that my sympathies are with them in their desire to acquire full title to their lots.

This matter is presented to you in order that it may be discussed and the opinions of those in charge obtained as to future procedure.

It is necessary that the question of the responsibility of carrying out the terms of the contracts be determined at once. If the title has passed and the responsibility is now with the Woman's Board, that should be recognized and the Superintendant of the School so instructed.

In this connection I would call attention to the old "Social Hall" building which was erected, I believe, at the expense of the Board for materials and by the labor of the people. According to the statement of the contract prepared by Judge Gunnison this building is clearly the property of the mission. It is now unused, is falling into disrepair and should be salvaged by whomsoever it belongs to.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Condit

C O P Y

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
James H.Condit.

January 8th, 1921.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Miss Edna R. Voss,
Superintendent of Schools,
Woman's Board of Home Missions,
Building.

Dear Miss Voss:

Enclosed you will find copies of two letters received from our Dr. James H. Condit, General Missionary in Alaska, dated December 2nd and 9th respectively, concerning the Sitka, Alaska property. When you have digested these letters, I will be very glad to confer with you in case you desire additional information or further cooperation on our part.

I enclose a pencil copy of the blue print showing the metes and bounds of that portion of the Sitka property which has been set apart to be called the manse property. The original blue print of this drawing is in our possession.

I will be glad to take these two matters up with you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Assistant Treasurer

Enc.

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VB MG Assistant Treasurer

Enc.

FIRST CHURCH
(WHITE)

R. A. Buchanan, A. M.
PRESBYTERIAN HOME MISSIONS
Sitka, Alaska

NATIVE CHURCH
(THLINGET)

January 14, 1921.

Dr. John Marquis,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

As you are probably aware from your conversation with Dr. Condit this summer, we have taken some steps looking toward new housing for our work in Sitka. Dr. Condit was here in Sitka recently, and we went over the whole matter together. He will, of course, place the matter before you, perhaps has done so already, but he thought it advisable that I also should go over the situation with you.

Perhaps it would be as well, in the first place, for you to make some note of the enclosed map of Sitka. Please note the following as you look at the chart; the location of the "Cottage Settlement" at the lower right hand of the map, and next above it the Presbyterian Manse, the property of the Home Board. Then note above that the native Presbyterian Church close to the beach, and at the end of a semi-circle of buildings. All of the buildings, with the exception of the church, being Sheldon Jackson School buildings. Then around the bend of the bay to the white town. Then please note the location of the white Presbyterian Church, indicated by the arrow, located at the corner of the public square, and, extending from this public square up to the top of the map, the native village with some considerable white business interests, canneries, machine shops and the like on the water front. Perhaps it would be well to state that the distance from the Presbyterian Manse to the farther end of the native village (at the top of the map) is a little more than a mile. Noting these facts on the map, let us take up the matter of a church building.

First, the need of new housing for both native and white congregations. To speak of the white situation first, the present building is old and dilapidated and small, there being about fifty seats in the building. This is large enough for the white congregation at present, but the most promising part of the white work is the Sundayschool, and the Sundayschool has an enrollment of sixty. Note the impossibility of good sundayschool work under such conditions, with fifty seats and sixty enrollment, to say nothing of the wretched condition of the building. We must have new housing for the white work in the very near future.

Then take up the matter from the standpoint of the native work. The present native church, located as we noted on the map, is far distant from the native village. It is convenient to the cottage

settlement, but the cottage settlement as an institution as it was first planned by the Home Board, is a thing of the past since the Sheldon Jackson School has been taken over by the Woman's Board. It is true that a majority of the officers in our native church reside in the cottage settlement, but the bulk of the membership is in the native village, and those who most need the ministrations of the church. Then there is the native Sundayschool in the village, held at present in the government school building, that building being indicated on the map, located directly beside the white church. There is an enrollment in this school of between fifty-five and sixty. This school must be in the village. We have tried in every way, but have never succeeded in getting these children to attend the Sundayschool in the native church. The distance is too great, and the condition of the roads in the winter time is often bad, and these reasons would apply with equal force to many of the older people residing in the village, in regard to church attendance. We must have housing for that Sundayschool in the very near future. Then the present native church is too large for our use. The gallery entirely around the church is not used except for sundayschool purposes. The building is expensive to maintain for heating, repairs and the like. The work then of both the native and white churches is decidedly hampered under the present circumstances.

Second, the plan for the new church is to have one building for both congregations. This would seem to be the logical thing so far as expense is concerned and the location lends itself to the plan. The new building located near the present white church, is at the junction, so to speak, of the native village and the white town. It is adjacent to each. It might be well to state at this point, that the location is at the top of a rise of ground sloping from the church down across the public square to the water front. It is a commanding position, apart from its convenience to the native village. A good building in such a location would be an advertisement for our work, not only locally but from the fact that there are many tourists visiting here during the summer, from the states. Our new building would be one of the first objects to attract attention. As for one building for the two congregations, both have expressed their willingness without a dissenting voice.

Third, the building itself. The building must seat at least three hundred people, larger than that would be better. Such a building is needed, not only for our own work, but for the town also, and because such a building is needed by the town for certain purposes, public meetings and the like, we have hoped that the town may subscribe to the building. We have no building in the town for the holding of patriotic meetings, public lectures and other meetings not out of harmony with our religious work. Let us also look at the building from the standpoint of our own work. First, the native people. We need a large building because of the fact that we must accomodate

Sheldon Jackson School. This means the housing of some one hundred and fifty people on the average, because it is likely to be more, and this added to the regular membership of the church requires a building seating not less than three hundred people. Another reason for abuilding of considerable size may be mentioned here. The Greek Church which has the larger proportion of the native people in the village, is, since the war, without any support from the home church in Russia. No money comes from the outside for the support of the church. The native men here tell me, that in their judgment, the Greek Church cannot last for any great length of time. Personally I am in no position to have an opinion of that because it is a question of what the natives of the Greek Church will do, and the natives of our Church say that the natives of the Greek Church cannot support it. If this Greek Church, in the near future, closes its doors, the native work would fall entirely to us, in which case we should be prepared to take care of it.

Fourth, tentative plans for procedure for financing and some considerations pretaining thereto.

The building which we propose to construct, with the lot, will cost in the vicinity of Thirteen Thousand Dollars. I have drawn a rough plan of the building, and with a contractor have made out a list of materials. I have had the leading contractor of Juneau give us figures on this plan and I am giving his estimates.

It is one of the requirements of the Board of Church Erection that there be a clear title to the land upon which any church building stand. A clear title is a very difficult thing to obtain in Sitka because of government requirements not here necessary to explain, but it happens that years ago Sheldon Jackson obtained a clear title to the land upon which the present white church stands. This land is the property at present of the white church, not the property of any church board, and the deed is held by the church, with a clear title. The white church indicates its willingness to deed this property to the Home Board for the use of a church building, in accord with the plan herein set forth. It is a valuable lot, valued at present at Twelve Hundred Dollars.

Second, there would be a subscription list including subscriptions from both native and white congregations and from other citizens of the town. This subscription list will not be large. The native people are able to give very little, and members of the white congregation are not able to give any large amount. The subscription from the business men of the town, is at present, an unknown quantity. Some might give liberally. This remains to be seen. This subscription list will be taken around in the very near future.

Third: the sale of the old building, that is, the native church building. This brings up the whole subject of the Sheldon Jackson School. Let it be noted first, the location of the native church building. It is located, as stated above, in the semi-circle of the Sheldon Jackson

School Buildings and is as convenient to the campus as any of the other buildings. The Superintendent of the School informs me that they need such a building for a play building. We are looking to the possibility of selling this building to the Sheldon Jackson School, or the Woman's Board, and here let it be said, that it is our judgment that the Woman's Board, because of the Sheldon Jackson School, should make a large contribution to the new building. If it were not for the fact that we have to give a church home to Sheldon Jackson School, the expense of the new building would be cut in half. This whole matter we hope you will t take up with the Woman's Board. We judge it to be the wish of the Woman's Board that Sheldon Jackson School should have church privileges. We, therefore, plan to build with that in view. We believe that Sheldon Jackson School needs the Church, and that the Church needs Sheldon Jackson School. We believe that complete separation would be disastrous. It may also be stated that t e new location is quite as favorable for Sheldon Jackson School as the present location, indeed the superintendent and a number of the teachers have stated that it would be a decided advantage to have the church home somewhere else than on the campus, as at present. In view of these things we believe that the Woman's Board should share largely in the expense of the building. We have thought that perhaps the contribution might come through the Woman's Board purchasing the old building, and if the Woman's Board could give us a certain agreed upon price for the old building and that amount contributed to the new building, would give them a building, which we understand they need, at a cost of only a fraction of what a new building would cost them. Dr. Condit and I estimated that we should have at least Two Thousand Dollars for the building, and it may here be said that when it comes to fixing the price of the new building, we desire someone other than the present superintendent of the School to pass upon it.

We hope that this will place the matter clearly before you and that this letter, with the map, will enable you to get a clear understanding of the situation. We want to urge upon you the crying need of a new building. Our work is suffering for lack of accomodation. The subscription list we hope to forward to you very soon with a copy of the deed to the lot and such other requirements of the Board of Church Erection as are possible under the peculiar circumstances of the field. The situation is entirely different from any other with which the Board of Church Erection is asked to deal, as you can easily see from the facts presented. We cannot fill all of the blanks called for by the Board. We shall come as near that as is possible and hope that nothing will prevent our being able to build in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Buchanan

TREASURER'S DEPT.

February 8th, 1921.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Miss Edna R. Voss,
Superintendent of Schools,
Woman's Board of Home Missions,
Building.

Dear Miss Voss:

In connection with my letter to you of January 8th last in the above matter, and confirming my early statement to you I beg to advise that this Board has now placed in the hands of Dr. W. R. Patterson, as custodian of buildings, the management and maintenance of the various properties of the Board, while used for missionary purposes.

I have turned over to Dr. Patterson the recent letters received from our Dr. Condit, copies of which you have, together with a survey of plot occupied by the manse on the Sheldon Jackson School property at Sitka, and now suggest that any future communications you may have, or personal interviews that you wish, regarding this matter be undertaken with Dr. Patterson.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Assistant Treasurer

TREASURER'S DEPT.

Mr. Banks
Dr. Patterson
Sitka, Alaska

February 8th, 1921.

Herewith find comparatively recent correspondence had on the matter of the status of the manse property at Sitka, Alaska which has been used by our missionary at that place.

This Sitka property at the request of the Woman's Board was conveyed to it by deed dated March 16th, 1916 with the understanding that that portion of the property occupied as a manse would be surveyed and title thereto conveyed to this Board. This was the arrangement made with Mr. Allaben at the time he was Superintendent of Schools for the Woman's Board, but which arrangement has not been carried out because there was no need for haste and probably was laid aside and forgotten.

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VB MG Assistant Treasurer

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Sitka, Alaska

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Brochure — ~~Sitka~~ Sitka — June 23 1921

Letter Lost mailed to Dr M.

Take up with women's Bd - Have much help with the Bldg - due to S for two students - Should be larger class to select.

Coach students on Campfires.

Mr McKay accepts the contract Bldg for the Bldg. - sell it for $2000 to W Bldg.

Proposed - Site / Present club house convert to both what & make town Play field on the site - / Select in walking - what is owned by the which town should or could it will present to Bd

Perhaps 100 x 100

see letter for finishing & plat.

Subscription List. 3400 at present time all for Old Bldg utterly useless - needed for SS fixed up & no seats.

Cost Est $3000 - seat 250 - Plans given Dr M in letter - Frame —

April 28th, 1922.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Miss Edna A. Voss,
Woman's Board of Home Missions,
Building.

Dear Miss Voss:

Thank you for submitting to me the letter addressed to you by Dr. Condit concerning the Sitka leases. We do not have on file here any papers connected with the Sitka property now inasmuch as all collateral papers were sent to the Woman's Board when the deed was delivered conveying this property to the Woman's Board. Such papers as we had were turned over to Mr. W. J. McMillan under date of November 28th, 1928 he then being Acting Treasurer of the Woman's Board.

I do not recall that this Board, during the period it held title to the Sitka property, ever entered into any agreement with the natives through leases or otherwise, by which land was rented for a nominal sum.

It would be helpful to us in our desire to give you all aid possible in this matter if we could see the leases or papers that you now have as they might start us on the way to definitely determine whether we have in our records anywhere additional papers which may throwlight on this matter.

I am returning herewith as requested Dr. Condit's letter addressed to you.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer

Enc.

L.

Woman's Board of Home Missions
of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

RECEIVED
SEP 30 1922
TREASURER'S OFFICE

Sept. 29, 1922.

Erika Loos

My dear Mr. Banks:

Miss Loos has asked me to send you a copy of the action taken at the last meeting of the Woman's Board. You will remember that you asked her to let you know what was done about this.

Very sincerely yours,

Helen H. Dingman

Assistant Superintendent of Field Work.

Mr. Varian Banks,
BUILDING.

COPY

Date September 21, 1922.
Station Sheldon Jackson School, Sitka, Alaska.

The Field Work Committee recommends:

That upon the recommendation of Dr. Condit and in accordance with the action of the Board of Home Missions in similar situations at Hoonah and Haines, Alaska, the following, in reference to lands set apart for the Indians at Sheldon Jackson School, Sitka, Alaska, be approved:

1. That warranty deeds be given to all persons entitled to same by occupancy and worthy citisenship.

2. That such deeds be also granted to those desiring to take advantage of this district, and who come under the specifications of the original lease form, as well as to others who are desirable.

3. That an addition be surveyed and made available for occupancy consisting of a tract to the west of Kelly Street, 100 feet deep, and extending the length of the original surveyed tract to be divided into lots 100 feet wide. The present lots are 50 by 100 feet and are too small. If titles are made available the present residents propose so to adjust the present tract that they will have lots 100 feet square. Additional room is needed for the purpose and for new occupants.

4. That the compensation to the Board in each case be limited to a sum sufficient to meet the cost of transfer.

5. That no restrictive clause be inserted in the deed looking to lives or morals but that these be adjusted and attained by local restrictions and public sentiment.

6. That a committee of five - three members to be elected by the local residents and two to be appointed by the Woman's Board from the Sheldon Jackson School - pass upon all transfer of property.

SESSION
R. W. DeArmond
Chas. G. Stuart
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
R. W. DeArmond
J. H. Condit
J. C. Thomas
BOARD OF DEACONS
Mrs. S. Devon
Mrs. C. G. Stuart
Miss. L. Stevenson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Robt. A. Buchanan, Pastor.
SITKA, ALASKA.

RECEIVED OCT 1922

Oct. 11.1922

NEW CHURCH
BUILDING COMMITTEE
J. H. Condit
J. C. Thomas
Chas. G. Stuart
R. W. DeArmond
FINANCE COMMITTEE
R. A. Buchanan
D. R. Jennings
Miss Z. Barrell

Mr.Varian Banks.

156 Fifth Ave. New York.

Dear Mr. Banks:-

Your letter received on last mail. I do not recall what I said in my letter to you which led you to think that I was suggesting that you get the Home Board to cooperate with the Board of Church Erection in thematter of our new church building. If I had that idea your letter has set the matter straight. We are not looking to the Home Board to furnish any part of the $5000. and that has never been our thought

You will be glad to know that the work of the new church is forging ahead.We have not made our "Drive"yet for the $5000 which we must raise because we want to get the plans of the building more complete. But the money is coming in very well from members and otherwise and we are approaching our first thousand.

Now another matter. I wish you would use your influence with the Board Mr.Banks, to have the native work and the White work here separated and a man put in charge of the white work Full time . The work needs that.It ought to be done next year. I want to say to you that I have put in a great deal of time on this building proposition this summer. The other men have their own work to look after, the bulk of the new work falls on me. It will be so until the church is completed.

This does not help the native work as you can readily see. I do not have the same time to put on it .And the natives see that. This emphasises the old fact that one and the same man cannot do justice to a native work and a white work at one and the same time. It never has been done

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SITKA, ALASKA.

Varian Banks 2

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Miss Z. Barrell

It never will be done. Every hour I put on the white work I loose on the native work. And besides that the white work demands full time. A fine Sunday School which cannot under present circumstances be connected up with a church service. No morning service. Just the fag end of the Lords day given to the white people. Dont forget Mr Banks that when this country is populated it will be populated by whites . The natives are not increasing. The increase will be in whites coming in. I am not belittling the native work atall ,but I am saying that we must hold the whites if we are to hold the country for Christ. We ought to be fair to the natives but we ought also to be fair to the whites. and the fact is that the native children of this town are far better looked after religiously than are the white children. And a white child ignorant of God is just as pitiable a sight as a native child ignorant of God. Is that not so?

But I go back to my original proposition that the same man cannot do justice to either people or to himself when he has to minister to two as distinct works as we have here. I hear some of the other men of Presbytery say" I dont care what the Whites say or think They can look after themselves I am with the natives" That man can throw his whole life into the native work. I cant do that. I have to care what the whites think and sayUse yo r influence Mr Banks for this separation Presbytery is in favor of it. Dr Young is in favor of it So is Dr Condit. Now I must close . with best wishes .

Sincerely yours.

R.A.Buchanan R A Buchanan

October 28th, 1922.

Rev. R. A. Buchanan,
Sitka, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

This will acknowledge your letter of the 11th inst. just to hand. Let me say that I heartily agree with you in the position you take regarding the separation of the white and native work at Sitka. I reached this conclusion before leaving Sitka after full conference with Dr. Condit, Dr. Young, and Messrs. Waggoner and Beck. They all agreed that it was a wise thing to do to make the change which you recommend in your letter.

I had this matter up before the Executive Council and we are all agreed that just as soon as the funds will permit an appropriation for a native man to take care of the native work at Sitka this separation of the white and native work should take effect. It is, therefore, merely a question of providing the funds for making an additional appropriation for the work in Sitka.

Owing to the almost crushing load which we are carrying this year, it will be impossible to give consideration to such a change now. It is our hope that we will not only be able to raise our whole debt but to receive sufficient income to meet our current years expenditures so as to be ready to be absorbed by the new Board of National Missions without any dead horses to pay for. If this hoped for result is realized I think there will be no doubt but that a sufficient appropriation can be made to Alaska next year to provide for the division of the white and native work. I will bear this matter in mind so that when the next years budget is considered we may, if it is at all possible, provide anamount to pay the salary of a missionary, a native man preferred, to labor exclusively among the natives. In the meantime, I wish you would give me a very careful estimate of the number of natives in Sitka;

1. how many adults
2. how many children
3. how many members have we among the natives
4. how many children in the native Sabbath School
5. what number of children could be counted on in the event that a building could be erected in the native quarter so as to place the privilege of Sabbath School services before the children in the native village.

I would like to have as much information along these lines and any other data that you can furnish that will bear upon this question in order to strengthen the proposition to divide the white and native work when it is considered finally in next years budget.

Regarding the opening paragraph of your letter which ends "we are

not looking to the Home Board to furnish any part of the $5,000 and that has never been our thought", I would say that I have always understood this to be a fact. The point I wished to make, however, was whether the Church Erection Board granted the amount or not, your people should not lessen their subscriptions towards your salary because of the extra burden put upon them to build the new Church for the very reason that if they did decrease their subscriptions towards the pastor's salary and running expenses, it would virtually mean that the Board of Home Missions was using its funds in this indirect manner to aid in the erection of the church building. This is the point I wish to make clear: any congregation that proposes to erect a new building are assuming that burden as an extra one and are not simply diverting their usual benevolences towards their church building. I am sure that you will agree with me that this is a right and fair position to take on the part of the Board.

I have not forgotten that I promised to subscribe $50. towards the cost of the new church building to be applied towards the $5,000 which your people are to raise. Let me know then you raise the first $4,000 and I will send my check to help complete the remaining thousand required. It would seem to me that your people ought to find no difficulty in raising this sum as large as it may seem to be now, inasmuch as they should have the feeling that it is money that is to be put to a permanent use which they and their children can enjoy in the years to come. It will be a permanent investment in which they will all be glad to know they had a part.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

SESSION
R. W. DeArmond
Chas. G. Stuart
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
R. W. DeArmond
J. H. Condit
J. C. Thomas
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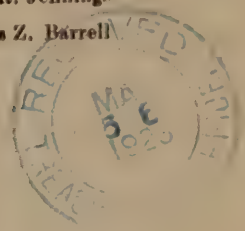
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Robt. A. Buchanan, Pastor.
SITKA, ALASKA

NEW CHURCH
BUILDING COMMITTEE
J. H. Condit
J. C. Thomas
R. W DeArmond
FINANCE COMMITTEE
R. A. Buchanan
D. R. Jennings
Miss Z. Barrell

Jan. 27, 1923.



Rev. Wm. T. Rodgers D.D.,
Macomb, Ill.

Dear Mr. Rodgers D. D:

A voice from the "Land of the Midnight Sun", Alaska; America's last frontier.

A land of vastness, in present domain and future possibilities.

A land which must be held for Christ.

The Presbyterian Church (your church and mine) is doing more to hold it than all other religious forces combined.

Will you be kind enough to read the enclosed leaflet relative to our Presbyterian church in Sitka.

Our Sunday School has grown in the past six years until we have practically the White child population of the town in our school.

We are without a church home.

We have a great opportunity and a great responsibility.

If we do not give these children the story of Christ they will not get it.

Any help you may give us will be greatly appreciated.

Perhaps your Missionary society might be interested in this.

Sincerely,

Rev. R. A. Buchanan.

R. A. Buchanan

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Feb.1st. 1923.

Mr Varian Banks.

156 Fifth Ave.

New York.

Dear Mr Banks:-

I am herewith sending figures asked for in your last letter to me,in regard to the natives of Sitka: This as bearing on the question of a church for natives in the "Ranche" or native village.

Living at present time in the ranche
1 Adults 216
2 Children ..140
3 Members of our church 80
4 Children in native sabbath School 57.

The 140 includes some, sixteen or seventeen years of age for these are attending public school.

The 57 is the highest number ever in attendance at the Sabbath School Of this 57 at least half are children of the Greek church natives but as the Greek church has no Sabbath School many attend our school.

These figures will you will note have nothing to do with the "Cottage Settlement" In the cottages there are about 35 adults and 23 children but these I take it w uld have no bearing on the question,as they attend the big church and school.

We might as well have in mind also the fact that the Greek church is in a very uncertain condition. There is no money coming from outside. It would have been given up before this but for the fact that it is the mother church of Alaska.

But that fact will make them hold to it as long as it is possible to do so. But I cannot see otherwise than that it is but a matter of time until all Greek work in Alaska will have to be abandoned.

A few priests will starve along for a time. As our Sitka priest is doing just now(He is a fine man also)

Or May last for a time as the Juneau priest is doing ,making his living at something else and holding services on Sunday. But he is an unusual man in that he was born in Alaska and I do not know of another priest who could make a living as he is doing..

These things should be borne in mind asyou consider the question.

Now Mr Banks I wish to speak of another matter.I am not sure that you will have anything to do with it but since you had to do with it last summer while you were in Sitka I will mention it now.

The men of the Cottages asked for more ground.They asked for another hundred feet over toward our house(which is the property of the Mens Board) You ,I understand, expressed yourself as favorable to that.

Now Dr Condit tells me that they insist(Perhaps I should say they ask for) two hundred feet,I saw the men measuring it one day and driving in stakes . The two hundred feet came about

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Mr Banks 2

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twenty five feet unto the Mens Board property, half way across my garden. and there they drove a stake. Dr Condit tells me that he told them that that was impossible and that then they asked that they have at least 150 ft Which would bring their lots almost to your property. Dr Condit tells me that he is favorably inclined to it.
Now I do not know whether the Mens Board will have any say in that matter or not But they ought at least to protest.(In my judgment)
I may say that I have always maintained that the cottagers should have title to their places, and I am glad they are going to receive those titles As to that hundred feet extra, I frankly do not know what they are going to do with it. Still I would not raise any great objection to it. But when you give them more than that you are going to place your pro property right beside their back yard. And if you are going to retain this prpperty as a manse property, I wish to say that no white man wants to live next to a natives back yard. Now Mr Banks I dont want you to missunderstand me. This is no white mans prejudice against indian. I have no such prejudice. I like the people. I have supped with them I have slept in indian homes(A thing which very few of your missionaries have ever done) But I dont want to live neighbor to the back yard of an Indian. We have had just as many deaths from "T.B." in the cottages since we have been here as in the native village, inproportion, indeed I think more. There is plenty of it in the cottages right now. There are no dirtier more dirty houses in the town than some of the cottage houses, inside and outside, I have been in them all. and with the exception of Mr Newells house, there are a number of houses in the village cleaner than any house in the cottages(Except Newells)
I am sorry to say that, at the same time I think no one is in a better position to judge than I am.
Then that thing they say about wanting gardens. It is easy to WANT a garden, But in this country a garden means a desprate lot of hard work and the greatest thing is it demands CONSTANT attention. and these people are gone every summer from June or July to September. and gardens are not planted here until June. How can they have garden?
Well anyhow you have a fine propery here I think you should protest it if you can. You may wish to dispose of it some day by sale or exchnage To whom could you dispose of it ?
Best wishes to you and yours.
Sincerely.

R A Buchanan

March 1st, 1923.

Rev. Sitka, Alaska

Rev. R. A. Buchanan,
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

Thank you for your letter of the 1st ult. in which you answered in detail my letter of October 26th last concerning the situation at Sitka as regards the native population. This will be very helpful to us in any consideration which we may be able to give bearing on the proposal to provide a building for Sunday School purposes for the native children, to be located in the native village.

Regarding the other matter to which you refer; namely, the request of the native men for a larger plot of ground than agreed upon at the time of our conference held in Sitka. I do not believe there is any occasion to feel concern about the action of the Indians, for the reason that neither this Board nor the Woman's Board would consent to the transfer of a larger plot of ground than 100 x 100 feet and for the further reason that Dr. Condit has had specific instructions from the Woman's Board that plots of ground of the above size only would be granted and that all proposed deeds in carrying out such transfers shall first be submitted to the Woman's Board before being executed. I learned of this fact from the Woman's Board from which it is evident that the Board itself intends to execute the required deeds and not allocate that authority to anyone else. Under the specific instructions which Dr. Condit has received I am sure he will see to it that these instructions are fully complied with.

I am very sorry to learn that any of the Indians are proposing any attempt to increase the alotment already agreed upon. It looks as though they thought they had a good thing and that they wish to take as much advantage of this opportunity as they can. I am wondering whether their plea for a garden which has more or less of camouflage in it, is not for the specific purpose of securing the largest alotment possible. I regret very much to refer to the native men in this way as it is quite in contrast to my impressions of them at the time I had the conference with them in Mr. Newell's house the last evening of my stay in Sitka.

I think, however, that inasmuch as official action has been taken the Indians should be informed by Dr. Condit that they are prohibited from staking out any larger plot than that decided upon. I conferred with Miss Dingman, Assistant Field Superintendent of the Woman's Board, and she promised to write Dr. Condit in view of your presentation of this matter. I am therefore, writing you so that you may understand that your thoughtful reference to this item has received prompt consideration and that the interests of our people will be protected.

I may add that the Board of Home Missions still feels, while the title to all the Sitka property is in the name of the Woman's Board that portion of the property not required for the Sheldon Jackson School belongs to our Board. I may say for your information, that at the urgent request of the Woman's Board several years ago the title to the Sitka property was conveyed to that Board with the understanding that they would reconvey to the Board of Home Missions the property not in use by the Sheldon Jackson School. I believe there were some reasons at that time why the Woman's Board especially wished to have the title in their name and inasmuch as we did not have the required data describing this Board's share of the property, we arranged with the then Superintendent of the Woman's Board to convey the title upon the understanding that we would have returned to us that part of the land retained by our Board. I mention this now, a fact that is probably already known by Dr. Condit, in order that you may know that we feel justified in recognizing this situation.

I would rather approve your conferring with Dr. Condit and showing him this letter.

Do not forget that I am ready to carry out my promise as contained in the last paragraph of my letter to you of October 26th in connection with my pledge of $50. towards the cost of your new church building.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

March 6th, 1923.

Re: Sitka, Alaska, new Church building

Rev. R. A. Buchanan,
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

We have received an offering of $45. from the Sunday School of Macomb, Ill. with instructions thhat"$10. is to be used for the erection of a new Church at Sitka, Alaska, as per letter attached." The letter attached was one signed by you addressed to Rev. Wm. T. Rodgers of Macomb, appealing for aid in the erection of your new church building.

I am surprised at the above request for two reasons: the application made by your Church to the Board of Church Erection clearly stated that $5,000 of the proposed cost of the building would be raised locally. By that the Board of Church Erection naturally and warrantably understood that your own members, congregation and local friends would raise said sum and on the basis of this pledge that Board made a generous grant and loan. We now find that you are evidently making a general appeal to friends and churches in the States for gifts to enable you to make good your local pledge.

By appealing to organizations outside of Sitka you are thereby preempting from the income of the Board amounts upon which we depend to meet our own obligations, as well as diverting them from the original purpose for which the offering was made. In the instance above referred to the $45. contributed by the Macomb Sunday School would have, unquestionably, been sent us for the Board's general work, as this offering was taken up in connection with the Washington's Birthday programs which we furnished them, in the use of which programs they agreed to contribute to our work.

If your Church was receiving no aid from either Board and an exigency arose which required outside aid the case would be entirely different, and you would be justified in making these appeals; but you ask and receive aid for the support of your Pastor and for the erection of your new Church, and then turn to the very people upon whom our two Boards depend for the money with which to supply that aid and ask them to give your Church, <u>in addition</u> the preference in dividing their benevolent contributions. You omitted to explain in your appeal that your Church has already been generously aided by our two Boards, and therefore, gave them the impression that you were thrown upon your own resources solely. Unintentional as it may be you are not playing fair.

I appreciate the fact that you have a big task before you. Without detailed knowledge of the financial condition of your people, I should say, on general principles, that the raising of $5,000. in Sitka is a big undertaking, but because it is a large and unusual task is the very reason why I believe

it to be a worthy challenge. If your members give a goodly share of time and thought to the task before them the full amount which you promised to raise locally can be secured even though it may not be all paid in the first year.

I do not write the foregoing in anger as may be sufficiently evidenced by the fact that I propose to make good the pledge given when I was present in Sitka. I do, however, deeply deplore your action in sending out this special plea under the circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG

P.S.: Since dictating the foregoing letter I have consulted with an official of the Board of Church Erection and am advised that had it been known that in making your pledge of amounts to be received locally you had in mind the securing of any portion thereof through appeals throughout the United States, the consideration given by that Board to the application of your Church might have been somewhat different, in view of the further fact that there is every likelihood your appeals may be received by some churches which will deduct an amount from and designate a portion of their offerings to the Church Erection Board in response to your appeal and thereby lessen the income of that Board also in the same manner that has happened in this particular instance.

Sheldon Jackson School
Sitka, Alaska
Conducted by the
Woman's Board of Home Missions
of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

James H. Condit, D. D. Superintendent

March 6th, 1923

Mr. Varian Banks
156- 5th Avenue
New York City, New York

My dear Mr. Banks:

There is a matter of record upon which you may or may not be able to enlighten me. Do you have any recollection personally of the building of the Social Hall in the Cottage Settlement in connection with this Mission? Would your treasurer's records indicate the amount of money which the Men's Board put into the building which was erected about the year 1900? Have you in your files a copy of the lease executed in 1910 and prepared by Judge Gunn ison? The lease was made between the Board and the Cottage Settlement people, for the use of this hall.

The building has been abandoned and is falling to pieces and when the question of using its materials for mission purposes came up we discovered that the Cottage people claim equity therein because of the labor, material and money which they claim to have invested in it. According to their representation, they brought the logs from the woods, had them sawed at Governor Brady's mill and used the lumber in the construction of this building, furnishing the labor themselves. They also claim that they passed subscription papers among themselves and gave entertainments to raise money for finishing the hall. My own idea is that the Board put a considerable amount of money into the materials. Money must have come from some source for the purchase of flooring, sash, doors, rustic and other finishing materials. If you can give me any information upon this subject it will be very much appreciated.

Another matter should be called to your attention. You will remember the conference which we had with some men from the Cottage Settlement in regard to the deeds to their property and how we agreed that such deeds should be given to them and also suggested that an additional one hundred feet be made to the Cottage Settlement, taking the ground where the old hospital used to stand just west of the present tract." The Woman's

Board agreed to issue such deeds and called representatives of the Cottage Settlement together and acquainted them with this fact but they are not satisfied with the amount of additional ground placed at their disposal and state that there is not sufficient room in the proposed addition to give each man a lot one hundred feet square, which was our provision. After our meeting they formed a surveying party of their own and staked off an addition reaching over one hundred and thirty feet beyond the one hundred feet which we had conceded: thirty feet for a road and one hundred feet for another row of lots opposite the same. This brings their west boundary to within thirty feet of Mr. Buchanan's house and is over considerably on the property which was segregated for the manse when the Men's Board gave title to the Woman's Board. I have informed the Cottage people that I feel very sure that the Men's Board will not be willing to yield any part of the portion which was retained by them for manse purposes. If this be in accord with your opinion I would appreciate a word to this definite end. In so far as giving them additional space beyond the one hundred feet first indicated I can see no reason why we should not do so up to the line where the manse property begins.

Cordially yours,

C/B

James H Coudit

May 26th, 1925.

Re: Sitka property, Alaska

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:

Your letter of March 6th last was received at a time when we were up to our eyes and even worse, in a deluge of work which always comes upon us in the closing months of the year, which work continues for some weeks after the close of the books. As it would require considerable time on the part of one of my older assistants to answer your question as to what, if any, amount this Board furnished towards the cost of the Social Hall in the cottage settlement at Sitka, it was necessary for me to lay your inquiry aside. From such records as we have available, I must confess they are not complete because, unfortunately, the old records were not made sufficiently clear to definitely connect payments made with a specific building, we have been unable to obtain definite evidence for which you hoped.

I agree with you, however, most decidedly, that the erection of the Social Hall at Sitka was not accomplished without the official assistance of the Board. It certainly would have been a strange proceeding on the part of the natives in the old days, when they looked to the Board for the greater part, if not all, of the amount required to erect their buildings, if they had, without aid from the Board, assumed the full burden of the erection of the above building. It seems to me that the position to take is that the Board of Home Missions claims to have been largely instrumental in providing for the above building and that though the natives may have furnished the material and labor, the amount with which to put the building in shape and to buy shah, doors and other like necessary building needs must certainly have come from some source.

On the other hand, inasmuch as the proposal to use the materials of the old building for mission purposes is for the benefit of the native population, all the work of the Sheldon Jackson School being carried on for the specific purpose of the uplift of the people I cannot conceive why objection is being made to such use. If you proposed to use the material to advance the personal interests of yourself or any one of your teachers, then I could readily understand and sympathize with the natives to prevent any such action; but as the property situation at Sitka is to be benefited by the use of the old materials and the entire property is for educating the youth of Southeastern Alaska, I cannot see what reasonable objection can be made to such use. I should feel that the objecting natives could be made to feel a bit ashamed over their insistence that their supposed rights be not invated. What would they say if the Woman's Board withdrew from Sitka and discontinued the operation of the Sheldon Jackson School. I fear that some of your native people are becoming a bit "swelled headed."

Now as to the proposition for the transfer of specific parcels of land to the natives, on which they have either erected their homes or propose to erect their homes, I would say that we must be firm in dealing with this situation and ought to make it very clear to all concerned that the allotting of plots of ground 100 x 100' is the maximum amount of land that can be assigned to any one family. As a matter of fact I am strongly inclined of the opinion that a plot of ground of that size is more than is needed. The plea made that a smaller parcel would prevent a garden being provided for is not a very strong argument in view of the fact, as Mr. Buchanan has pointed out to me in a letter on the subject, the natives are away during the greater part of the period when a garden can be cared for. I am wondering whether the garden plea was simply a subterfuge towards the desired end of securing as large a parcel of land as possible.

Let Ralph Young and others know that the Board will not grant the desired deeds until they stop their actions in attempting to increase their allotment thereby encroaching upon the manse property which Mr. Buchanan occupies. Care must be taken to segregate the natives to that section of the property where there can be no objections made.

I do not sympathize with the actions of the native men in forming a surveying party of their own inasmuch as it partakes of a want of appreciation on the one hand and an unwarrantable assumption on their part that they can have pretty much all the land they want.

When I was in Sitka Ralph Young and Andrew Wanamaker were apparently perfectly satisfied with the reply I gave them that I would recommend that plots of ground 100 x 100' be granted. It looks to me very much as though, they, having been granted an inch, want an ell.

I have consulted with the Assistant Superintendent of School Work of the Woman's Board and have been advised that under no circumstances will the Woman's Board consent to change the original decision made and that no deeds will be executed or title transferred until the natives ungrudgingly accept the proposition which I agreed to when in Sitka and adopted unanimously by this Board and the Woman's Board.

As a matter of fact, the Board of Home Missions is the real owner of the property, although for technical reasons, the Woman's Board has actual title through deed of transfer from this Board to them. At the time this deed was transferred, it was understood that the Woman's Board would have survey made of such portion of the property as the Board of Home Missions desired to retain and execute a deed of transfer but this, because of the change due to the withdrawal of Mr. Allaben from the Woman's Board service, has never been attended to.

In conclusion, therefore, I think the men should be informed that

that before we can carry out the proposition to deed them parcels of land for their homes, they must withdraw all opposition to the decision made by the two Boards and cheerfully and willingly accept what has been proffered them.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

ROBERT A. BUCHANAN, A. M.

FIRST CHURCH (WHITE)

PRESBYTERIAN NATIONAL MISSIONS

SITKA, ALASKA

THLINGET CHURCH (NATIVE)

Oct. 12:1923.

Rev.A.B.Keeler
156 Fifth Ave.
New York.

SECRETARY
RECEIVED
OCT 29 1923
Answered

Dear Mr Keeler:-

A line to ask you what has become of the proposition of shingles off our native church ?

The roof leaks very badly. Dit the item fail of approval at 156 Also will you kindly keep in mind the matter of repairs on the Manse. This fall we have had some very heavy rains and these showed the need of guttering on the house, You may remember that it is all gone. The heavy rains ran the water from the roof about the walls and into the cellar and I notice in one place where a crack is developing in the cellar wall.

This property requires attention.

With best regards

Sincerely.

R.A.Buchanan.

R A Buchanan

November 21st, 1923.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Rev. George G. Bruce, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Bruce:

You may prefer to write in the situation by omitting reference to Falconer. Use your own judgment as to this

Enclosed you will find both original and duplicate copy of a letter I have addressed to Mr. Buchanan at Sitka, which speaks for itself. If, for any reason, you think it best not to send him the letter because of his possible withdrawal from the work, then destroy these enclosures; otherwise kindly send on the original to him and keep the duplicate for your own records.

I have received additional bills from Falconer for the Kasaan manse, but nothing can be done about any expected remittance on this account until we know just why this unauthorized action has been taken and by whom. Mr. Keeler reported that he doubted very much if when the proceeds from the Ketchikan manse sale were paid to Mr. Falconer the money would have been sent on to New York, according to instructions. This looks a bit like Mr. Falconer's taking the law into his own hands and deciding to do as he thought best without regard to the Board's instructions. I do know that the money from this sale was in Mr. Falconer's hands for sometime after being paid over to him and only through Mr. Keeler's intervention was the amount forwarded to New York, less the portion which was retained for repair on the Ketchikan native church building and for the Hoonah manse building.

I have a statement from Dr. Wylie, Secretary of the Board of Church Erection, reporting the transfer of the three items originally listed in Mr. Keeler's recommendation:

Sitka. . . .	$250.
Kake	300.
Haines . . .	250.

so that the total of these three items may be applied towards the Kasaan manse. This is in harmony with letter I wrote to Dr. Young, copy of which was sent you. You may, therefore, understand that the $800. for the three places above-named cannot be made available for this year.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

Enc.

November 21st, 1923.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Rev. R. A. Buchanan,
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

Rev. A. B. Keeler, Church Extension Secretary of the Board of Church Erection has given me your letter of the 12th ult. addressed to him in regard to needed repairs on the native church at Sitka, Alaska.

It is unfortunate that some one authorized Mr. Falconer, or he himself assumed the authority, to go ahead in the matter of erecting a new manse building at Kasaan to cost $800. This amount was not provided for in the report made by Mr. Keeler to this Board and, therefore, in making request to the Board of Church Erection that they approve of the proceeds from the sale of the Ketchikan manse being allocated for certain needed repairs, we, naturally, omitted mention of the Kasaan manse in harmony with that report.

The situation is just this: Mr. Falconer, upon his own or other initiative, has proceeded to erect the Kasaan manse and bills have come in with request for payment. This makes it necessary to change the request of this Board as presented to the Board of Church Erection so that the $250. allocated to Sitka for native church repair, together with two other items amounting to $550., have been transferred to make up the amount required to meet the Kasaan manse bills. I, therefore, regret to say that for the present, at least, I see no way in which funds can be provided for the native church repairs.

Also, you report that some repairs are needed on the manse building which you occupy. If you will send me a careful and definite estimate, first, as to the actual amount required to repair the native church, and second, what is needed to be done on the manse and how much it will cost, I will take the matter up with the Board of Church Erection and see what can be done.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer

into the budget for next year in order that this account may be closed out as we must have no dead horses handing over us when the work of the Board of Home Missions ceases and its administration begins under the Board of National Missions. I wish you would give me your reaction on this suggestion. It may be that at the close of the year there will be a salvage uncalled for which will permit of this property advance being taken care of. In this event all will be well as we can readily arrange to provide for the item in this way.

By a later mail I will send you the amount already granted for the Sitka repairs as I will at once make application for the amount and forward same as soon as I can secure the money from the Church Erection Board.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer

February 25th, 1924.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Rev. George G. Bruce, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Bruce:

Your letter of the 11th inst. with particular reference to the repairs to the native church and manse for the white minister at Sitka came duly to hand.

I regret very much that even if the way were open to make an additional grant it is not possible to arrange for it before the close of this fiscal year as the Board of Church Erection has already held its February meeting and its next meeting will not convene until the third Thursday in March. However, as I happen to know that the Board of Church Erection has preempted within $17,000 of the amount which they have available for this years grants and loans, not including such grants as they made at their meeting held on the 21st inst., there will probably be no opportunity to secure a grant that can be made available until after the opening of the new year.

I think the best way to do would be to send the amount of the grant already made by the Board of Church Erection for the native Church roof and for the white manse repairs and let it go as far as it can; then whatever additional repairs are absolutely necessary, after a careful estimate may be submitted later.

I have had some correspondence with Dr. Diven and have been prepared for his possible transfer to Sitka, but did not glean from his letters that it was imminent at this time, although it is, of course, apparent that Sitka should have some one to take care of the work there immediately after Mr. Buchanan's withdrawal, in view of the important building project now on hand.,

I hope that Dr. Diven will remain in Wrangell long enough to make some disposal of the property there. You may possibly recall that when I was at that plane in 1922 I forwarded to Dr. Diven, upon my return to New York, between four and five hundred dollars to take up certain bills which he had incurred in repairing the manse and church, upon the understanding that we would be reimbursed in the comparatively near future from the sale of lots there. More than a year and a half has elapsed and yet there is no more prospect of this reimbursement being effected than at the time I was in Alaska.

This illustrates, Dr. Bruce, one thing which I think should be carefully guarded against: hopeful promises are often submitted in connection with funds that are desired for this or that purpose, but these plans very rarely mature at the expected time. Now, the only thing that I can do regarding this Wrangell property matter is to carry this advance in the above-mentioned sum

February 26th, 1924.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Rev. George R. Brauer, Treasurer,
The Board of the Church Erection Fund,
Building.

Dear Mr. Brauer:

Advice received from Rev. George G. Brauer, D.D., Chairman of the Home Mission Committee of Alaska Presbytery, states that he is now ready to receive and use the two following grants made by your Board at your January meeting, viz:

$250. to repair the roof of the native Church at Sitka
330. for the repairs to the white minister's manse Sitka

If you will be good enough to send me checks for these two sums I will promptly forward them so that the needed repairs can be undertaken at the earliest possible moment. I may say that Rev. R. A. Buchanan who is now at Sitka desires to make these repairs before he leaves on April 1st next.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Treasurer

March 4th, 1924.

Re: Sitka, Alaska

Rev. George G. Bruce, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Bruce:

Enclosed you will find check for $580. received from the Board of Church Erection covering two grants, one of $250. for repairing the roof of the Native Church, and the other for $330. for repairing the manse now occupied by Mr. Buchanan.

As previously advised, I do not see how we can this year obtain any further sum towards the cost of additional repairs. Mr. Buchanan was supposed to make careful estimate of what was needed as I asked him specifically to state what was required and to advise the amount necessary to provide for such repairs as were urgently needed now; the two amounts above stated were named by him and the Board of Church Erection made these two grants. Make the money go as far as you can and when the enclosed amount is exhausted let me have an additional statement as to what will be absolutely necessary to put the two buildings into proper condition and we will, if possible, provide the amount.

We are forwarding to Mr. Buchanan by this mail check for his March salary. I also enclose herewith check for his salary for April and May on the basis of the full salary. I have thought that you might like to send this check to him that you may have evidence, as well as he, that your promise to him, on the basis of word received from this office, is made good.

From a letter received from Mr. Pederson today, I quote the following: "Dr. Bruce approved of your plan to have the natives give to the Board and then you send check to the missionary." From this I opine that the return to you recently of the amount received from the Hanega Church was in harmony with this understanding and that the amount will be turned over to Mr. Pederson promptly.

The loss of the good mission boat "Lois" is a severe one. We are awaiting, with no little interest, report as to how it happened. I am quite sure that it was due to no negligence as Mr. Beck is certainly a very careful man. I can imagine he must feel pretty well broken up over its loss. I presume it will mean that he will have to remain in Hoonah continuously for sometime. The Promotion Division has already taken steps to acquaint the church with this loss and to arouse some interest in the matter to provide the sum withwhich to procure a new boat. You probably will receive some word direct from our Promotion Division concerning the new boat.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG (encs) Treasurer